

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /135 W

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R 302015Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO RUEHCXSECSTATE WASHDC 3637

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 2854

USMISSION USUN

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3320

E.O. 11652-GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES

SUBJ: FAREWELL VISIT WITH PRES CORONEL ARTURO ARMANDO
MOLINA

1. I PAID MY FINAL VISIT TO PRESIDENT MOLINA ON AUGUST 29 AND FOUND HIM AFFABLE AS ALWAYS. I CONGRATULATED HIM ON THE APPARENT PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT WITH HONDURAS AND HE RESTATED HIS DETERMINATION TO BE A MAN OF PEACE AND "ABOVE ALL A CENTRAL-AMERICANIST". I THEN REMARKED THET I HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT EL SALVADOR WAS CONSIDERINO BUYING JETS FROMA THIRD COUNTRY. I SPECULATED THAT SUCH A MOVE MIGHT UPSET THE DELICATE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH HONDURAS, ESPECIALLY IF SUCH AIRCRAFT WERE MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN THE A-37S WHICH THE HONDURANS PLAN TO BUY AND I ASKED HIM IF THERE WERE A "DANGER THAT SUCH AN EVENT MIGHT COME TO PASS." "NO DANGER", HE REPLIED. WHETHER HE MEANT THEY WERE NOT BUYING OR WHETHER HE MEANT SUCH A PURCHASE WOULD NOT BE UNSETTLING REMAINED UNCLEAR, FOR HE CHANGED THE SUBJECT. (WHILE WAITING TO SEE THE PRES I CHANCED TO VISIT WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROMERO. I QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE JET

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AIRCRAFT PURCHASE AND HE INDICATED IT WAS SHELVED BECAUSE OF THE LACK

OF CREDIT. HE WAS VERY VAGUE WHEN I PRESSED HIM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASE.)

2. I ASKED THE PRES IF HE HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ME TO PASS ALONG TO MY SUCCESSOR AS TO HOW TO MAKE EVEN CLOSER THE TIES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. HE SAID NO, THAT HE WAS WELL SATISFIED WITH OUR MISSION HERE. I ASKED WHO MIGHT BE THE NEXT SALVADORAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US AND HE INDICATED THAT DR. GALINDO POHL, CURRENTLY THE UN REP, WAS A MAJOR CANDIDATE. "WASHINGTON IS MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAN THE UN, INDEED IT IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT EMBASSY, AND I WANT AS AMBASSADOR SOMEONE PERSONALLY CLOSE TO ME. DR. GALINDO WAS MY TEACHER IN HIGH SCHOOL AND WE ARE INTIMATE FRIENDS."

3. THE PRESIDENT ASKED MY PERSONAL INTERVENTION IN TWO MATTERS WHEN I RETURN TO WASHINGTON: FIRST, THAT I DO WHATEVER POSSIBLE TO GENERATE US PRESSURE TO BRING ABOUT AN EARLY SETTLEMENT WITH HONDURAS, AND SECOND, THAT I HASTEN THE TRAMITES INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING THE LOAN TO THE I.R.A. FOR SILO CONSTRUCTION. I ASSURED HIM I WOULD MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN. HE THEN REQUESTED THAT I TELL PRES NIXON NOT TO WORRY THAT EL SALVADOR WOULD FALL INTO UNFRIENDLY HANDS OR BECOME RADICALIZED: "WE ARE AWARE OF THE NEED FOR CHANGE BUT THE CHANGE MUST BE SLOW AND CAREFULLY PLANNED," HE LAMENTED AGAIN THAT WE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ACCEDE TO HIS REQUEST TO VISIT PRES NIXON IN FLORIDA BEFORE HIS (MOLINA'S) INAUGURATION. (THAT MATTER, ALONG WITH THE EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR OF THE EXPENSIVE AIRPLANE RIDE IN MARCH OF '72 HAVE STUCK IN MOLINA'S CRAW AND HAVE, DESPITE HIS AFFABILITY AND ASSURANCES OF FRIENDSHIP, HANDICAPPED THIS MISSION.)
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